

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 INT-05 /108 W

----- 018996

P R 170748Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PAURITY 7186

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 8570

E.O. 11152: GDS

TAGS:HIFOR, PQD

SUBJECT: PAKISTANAND THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE

1. ZULFIKAR ALI BHUTTO'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE MEETING IN COLOMBO IS SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE COUNTRY COUSIN WHO IS NOT INVITED TO HIS RELATIVES' SOCIETY WEDDING IN NEW YORK CITY. PUBLICLY HE EXPRESSES DISINTEREST AT HIS EXCLUSION BUT PRIVATELY HE IS MIFFED AT BEING LEFT OUT AND WORRIED ABOUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN HIS ABSENCE. THIS AMBIVALENT ATTITUDE IS REFLECTED IN THE GOP'S POLICY TOWARD THE NAC.

2. PAKISTAN HAS TWO MAIN CONCERNS ABOUT THE COURSE THE NAC MAY TAKE AT COLOMBO. FIRST, BHUTTO BELIEVES PAKISTAN HAS A RIGHTFUL PLACE AT THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AND IS PIQUED THAT AS A PUTATIVE LEADER OF THE THIRD WORLD
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PAKISTAN IS NOT PARTICIPATING. BHUTTO IS PROUD OF HIS

THIRD WORLD CREDENTIALS AND OBVIOUSLY BELIEVES THAT SUCH A STELLAR GATHERING SHOULD HAVE PAKISTANI REPRESENTATION. THE GOP'S SECOND CONCERN IS THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF PAKISTANI REPRESENTATION, THE NAC MAY TAKE ACTIONS - AT INDIAN INSTIGATION - WHICH WILL BE INIMICAL TO PAKISTAN'S INTEREST. ACCORDING TO MFA SOURCES, THIS CONCERN CENTERS ON "CLAUSE 11" OF THE PROPOSED AGENDA. THE MFA SAYS THIS ARTICLE CALLS UPON THE MEMBER STATES TO COME TO EACH OTHERS ASSISTANCE IF ANY MEMBER IS THREATENED. THE GOP FEELS THIS CLAUSE IS BEING PUSHED BY THE INDIANS AS A WAY OF INSURING NON-ALIGNED SUPPORT IN CASE OF AN INDIAN ATTACK ON PAKISTAN. ALTHOUGH MOST MFA OFFICIALS WILL ADMIT THIS WOULD BE STRETCHING THE INTENT OF CLAUSE 11, THEY BELIEVE IT IS INDICATIVE OF INDIA'S ATTEMPTS TO ISOLATE PAKISTAN FROM THE REST OF THE THIRD WORLD.

3. PAKISTAN'S STRATEGY FOR DEALING WITH THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE HAS SEVERAL ELEMENTS. THE GOP OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT WISH TO ANTAGONIZE THE MEMBERSHIP SINCE IT DOES NOT WANT, IN ANY WAY, TO SULLY ITS OWN THIRD WORLD CREDENTIALS. IT HAS, HOWEVER, CRITICIZED THE MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA. DURING HIS VISIT TO BANGLADESH LAST MONTH FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI SAID THE MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA IN THE NON-ALIGNED WERE MUCH TOO RESTRICTIVE AND THAT PAKISTAN WAS MORE NON-ALIGNED THAN MOST OF THE NAM MEMBERS.

4. COUPLED WITH THIS CRITICISM IS A PUBLIC AVOWAL THAT PAKISTAN HAS NO INTEREST IN EITHER GUEST OR OBSERVER STATUS AT THE NAC AND WILL AGREE TO PARTICIPATE AS A FULL MEMBER ONLY IF THE NON-ALIGNED INVITES THE GOP ON A CONSENSUS BASIS. ALTHOUGH THE GOP CAN CLAIM THIS IS A PRINCIPLED STAND, IT ALSO REALISTICALLY REFLECTS THE FACT THAT THE GOP KNOWS INDIA IS ABLE TO KEEP IT OUT OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AS LONG AS PAKISTAN RETAINS CENTO MEMBERSHIP.

5. ALTHOUGH PROFESSING DISINTEREST IN PUSHING FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE, PAKISTAN HAS SENT A HIGH-POWERED DELEGATION TO COLOMBO WHICH IS THERE, CONFIDENTIAL

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FORTUITOUSLY THE PAKS SAY, AT THE SAME TIME AS THE CONFERENCE IS MEETING. THE PAK AMBASSADORS TO AUSTRIA AND BELGRADE ARE IN COLOMBO, AND THE GOP ALSO ASKED THE SRI LANKAN GOVERNMENT IF HAYAT MEHDI, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR SOUTH ASIA AT THE MFA, COULD ALSO ATTEND. THE GSL REPLIED THEY WOULD PREFER THE GOP KEEP ITS PRESENCE RESTRICTED TO THE TWO AMBASSADORS AND ISLAMABAD AGREED. WE ASSUME THE PAK EMBASSY AND THE VISITING AMBASSADORS ARE BUSY

CANVASSING THE NAC DELEGATIONS, ESPECIALLY THE ISLAMIC MEMBERS, IN ORDER TO PUSH FOR POSITIONS THAT PAKISTAN FAVORS AND TO INSURE THAT PAKISTANI INTERESTS ARE NOT HARMED.

6. DURING THE RECENT ISLAMIC CONFERENCE MEETING IN TURKEY, THE GOP PUSHED FOR THE RESOLUTION WHICH CALLED FOR THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE SECRETARY BEING INVITED TO THE NAC. THE PAKS HAVE ASSUMED THAT HIS PRESENCE WILL STRENGTHEN ISLAMIC POSITIONS, THEREBY INDIRECTLY SAFEGUARDING PAKISTAN.

7. BHUTTO HAS ALSO CAREFULLY CULTIVATED DELEGATIONS TRANSITING PAKISTAN ON THEIR WAY TO THE NAC. THE PRESIDENT OF MAURITANIA PAID A STATE VISIT TO PAKISTAN EN ROUTE TO THE NAC AND WAS GIVEN RED CARPET TREATMENT BY THE GOP. BHUTTO WENT TO KARACHI AUGUST 15 SPECIFICALLY TO GREET ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE DURING A ONE HOUR STOPOVER. OTHER TRANSITING DELEGATIONS SUCH AS THE CAMBODIANS HAVE ALSO BEEN FETED BY THE PAKISTANIS.

8. BHUTTO HAS ALSO DECIDED THAT IF PAKISTAN IS NOT OFFICIALLY REPRESENTED, A PAKISTANI PRESENCE WILL BE EVIDENT TO THE PARTICIPANTS. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS SENT A LONG MESSAGE TO MRS. BANDARANAIKE CONGRATULATING HER ON HOSTING THE NAC AND EXPRESSING PAKISTANI SUPPORT FOR HER "MODERATE" WAYS. THE GOP HAS ALSO SENT FRESH FRUIT AND A BRASS BAND TO BE USED FOR THE COMFORT AND ENTERTAINMENT OF THE DELEGATES AND FIVE HORSES FOR THE COLOMBO POLICE. ALSO, THE GOP HAS DONATED A LARGE CANOPY WHICH WILL BE SET UP OUTSIDE THE CONFERENCE HALL SO THAT, IN THE WORDS OF ONE PAKISTANI MAGAZINE, EVEN THOUGH THE GOP IS NOT REPRESENTED, THE DELEGATES WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL

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MEETING IN PAKISTAN'S SHADOW.

9. DURING A RECENT VISIT TO NORTH KOREA, PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO CALLED FOR THE CONVENING OF A THIRD WORLD SUMMIT TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC ISSUES. ALTHOUGH HE HAD VARIOUS REASONS FOR THIS SUGGESTION, INCLUDING HIS GROWING CONCERN THAT THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE WILL NOT BE SUCCESSFUL, ONE GOAL WAS AN ATTEMPT TO DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM THE NAC. THE PAKISTANI MEDIA HAS POINTED OUT THAT THE NAC PLANS TO DISCUSS THE NEW ECONOMIC ORDER BUT THAT THIS IS NOT THE CORRECT FORUM FOR ECONOMIC ISSUES WHICH AFFECT THE ENTIRE THIRD WORLD, NOT JUST THE NON-ALIGNED MEMBERSHIP. WE ASSUME THE PROPOSAL FOR A NEW BANDUNG CONFERENCE MENTIONED IN PARIS 21632 IS A MISINTERPRETATION OF BHUTTO'S PROPOSAL.

10. EVEN WITHOUT ANY FORMAL STATUS AT THE NAC THE GOP
WILL NOT ONLY BE MUCH IN EVIDENCE AT THE CONFERENCE BUT
WILL ALSO ATTEMPT TO ENSURE ITS INTERESTS ARE
NOT HARMED AT COLOMBO AND ITS ROLE AS A THIRD WORLD
ACTIVIST IS NOT DILUTED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, NONALIGNED NATIONS MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ISLAMA08570
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760315-0208
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760847/aaaabotg.tel
Line Count: 176
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PAKISTANAND THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE
TAGS: PFOR, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006